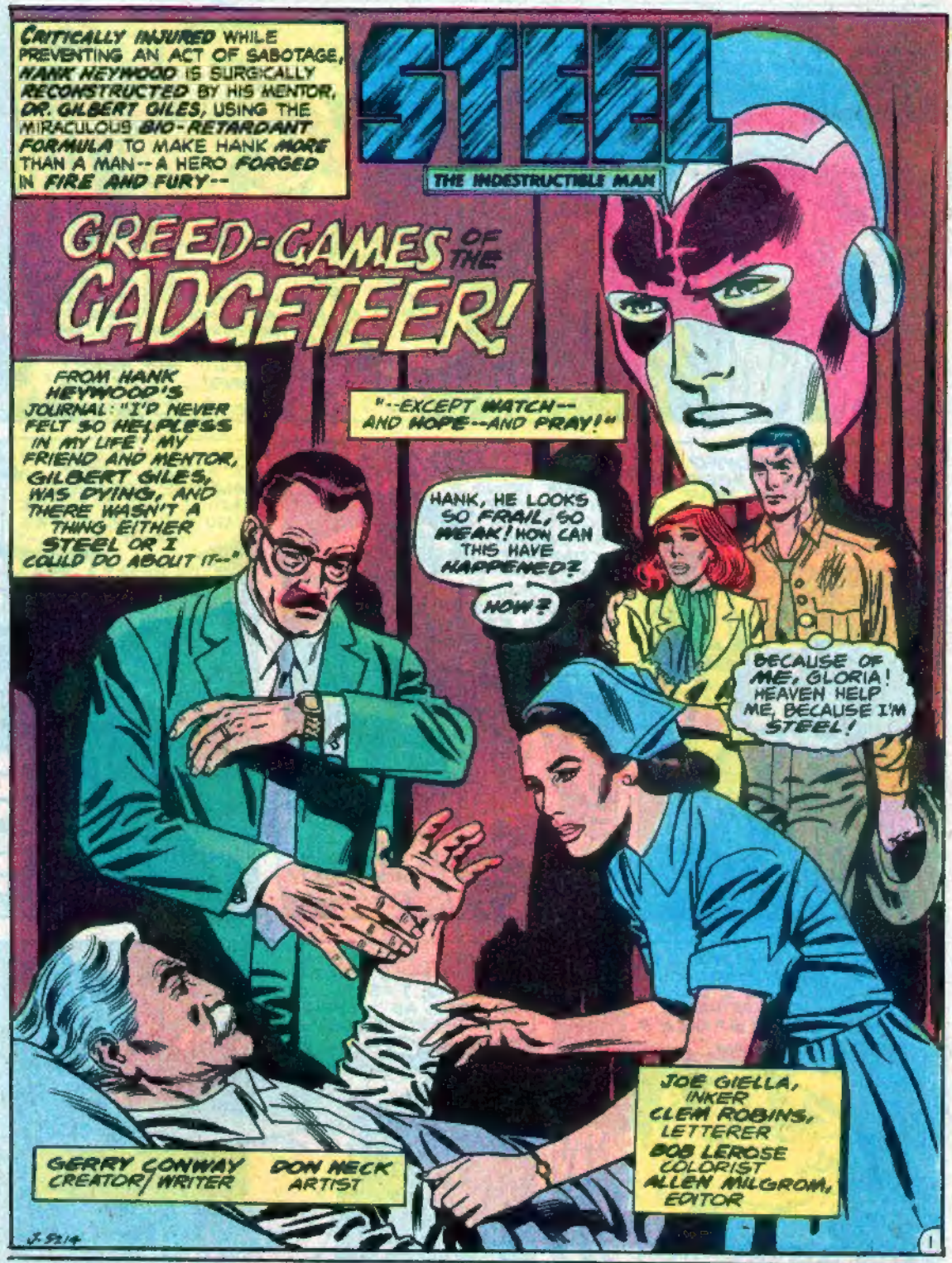
DC
STEEL
THE INDESTRUCTIBLE MAN
35¢
NO. 4
SEPT.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MY FIRST GRENADE JUST SOFTENED YOU UP...
THE NEXT ONE WILL KILL YOU!
THE GHASTLY GRIP OF THE GADGETEER!



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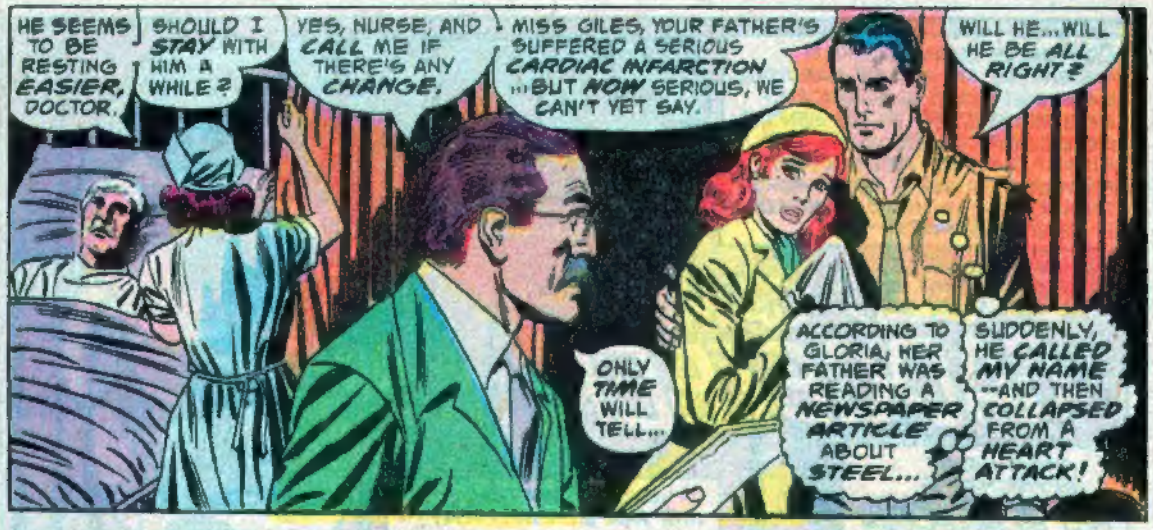
A MrBC Scan!


HE SEEMS TO BE RESTING EASIER, DOCTOR.
SHOULD I STAY WITH HIM A WHILE?
YES, NURSE, AND CALL ME IF THERE'S ANY CHANGE.
MISS GILES, YOUR FATHER'S SUFFERED A SERIOUS CARDIAC INFARCTION ...BUT NOW SERIOUS, WE CAN'T YET SAY.
WILL HE...WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?
ONLY TIME WILL TELL...
ACCORDING TO GLORIA, HER FATHER WAS READING A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ABOUT STEEL...
SUDDENLY, HE CALLED MY NAME --AND THEN COLLAPSED FROM A HEART ATTACK!

GILES NEVER APPROVED OF AMERICA TAKING AN INTEREST IN THE EUROPEAN WAR... AND HE HATED THE VERY CONCEPT OF STEEL...

HE THOUGHT STEEL WAS A SUPER-PATRIOT, A WAR-HAWK TRYING TO INVOLVE OUR COUNTRY IN A FOREIGN CONFLICT.
IF HE SUSPECTED THE CONNECTION BETWEEN STEEL AND HIS FUTURE SON-IN-LAW--
--THE SHOCK LITERALLY MAY HAVE BROKEN HIS HEART!

HANK...I KNOW YOU HAVE TO RETURN TO YOUR MARINE BASE NOW, BUT...I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE TONIGHT.
IT'S MEANT A GREAT DEAL, KNOWING THAT YOU'RE HERE --AND I CAN COUNT ON YOU!

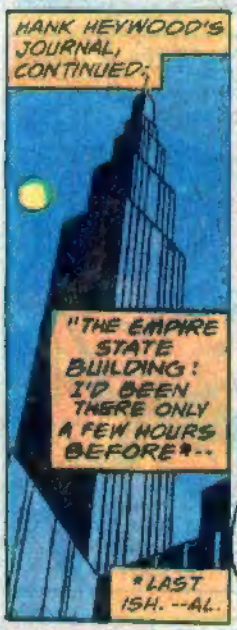
YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON ME, DARLING.
BUT WHAT WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOU FOUND OUT THAT I CAUSED YOUR FATHER'S HEART ATTACK?

STRANGE...FOR JUST A MOMENT WHILE WE WERE KISSING, I FELT HANK GO COLD, AS THOUGH HE'D TURNED TO ICE!
HE'S CHANGED SO MUCH SINCE HE JOINED THE MARINES A FEW MONTHS AGO...

ONCE HE WAS A BIOLOGIST, LIKE MY FATHER, AND I UNDERSTOOD HIM.
NOW HE'S A SOLDIER... AND I'M NOT AT ALL SURE I'LL EVER UNDERSTAND HIM AGAIN...!
HANK HEYWOOD'S JOURNAL: "CAMP MARSHALL MARINE BASE ON LONG ISLAND, LATER THAT SAME NIGHT..."
THINKING ABOUT GILBERT GILES AND HIS FEELINGS ABOUT AMERICA'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN EUROPE, I REALIZED SOMETHING...
ALL OVER OUR COUNTRY, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T BELIEVE THAT ADOLF HITLER AND HIS WAR-MACHINE ARE A MENACE TO OUR FREEDOM!
BECAUSE THE WAR IS IN EUROPE, THEY THINK IT'S JUST EUROPE'S PROBLEM!
THEY REMEMBER OUR LOSSES IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR, "MR. WILSON'S WAR", AND THEY SAY TO THEMSELVES, "NO! THE PRICE IS TOO HIGH!"
THEY SAY THAT BECAUSE THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND.
THE LIGHTS ARE GOING OUT ALL OVER EUROPE, AND A GREAT DARKNESS IS DESCENDING ON THE WORLD...
"WE SUFFERED TOO MUCH--AND FOR WHAT? WARS GO ON, PEACE IS AN ILLUSION, EUROPE IS DECADENT AND DESERVES A MONSTER LIKE HITLER!"
AMERICA WILL SOON BE THE LAST BASTION OF FREEDOM--
--AND THAT'S A RESPONSIBILITY WE DARE NOT SHIRK!
AND THAT'S WHY I'LL GO ON FIGHTING THE FORCES OF FASCIST TYRANNY--
--UNTIL THE DAY I FINALLY DIE!
THAT'S WHY I BECAME STEEL!

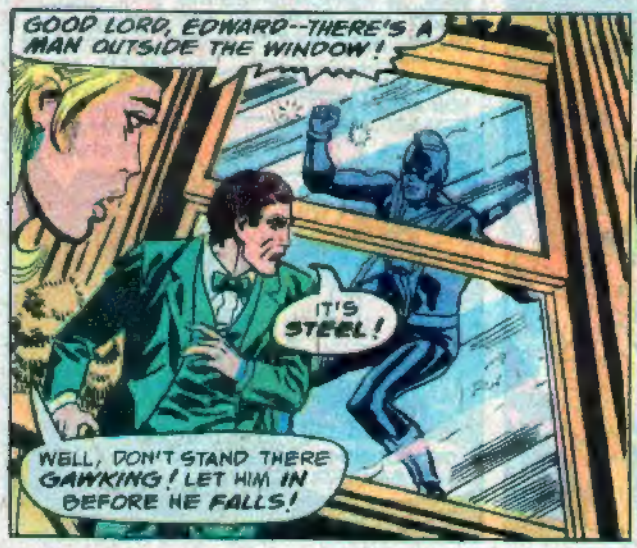
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

HE JUST CLEARED THIRTY FEET--! HE MUST HAVE MUSCLES LIKE STEEL SPRINGS!
BUT--BUT, SARGE! THE BULLETS ARE BOUNCING OFF!
THAT GUY'S PART TANK!
KPOW!
OPEN FIRE! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
KBLAM!
"AND THE STRANGE THING WAS, THAT DOGFACE WAS MORE RIGHT THAN HE'D EVER KNOW..."


HANK HEYWOOD'S JOURNAL, CONTINUED:
"THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING! I'D BEEN THERE ONLY A FEW HOURS BEFORE*--
*LAST ISH. --AL.

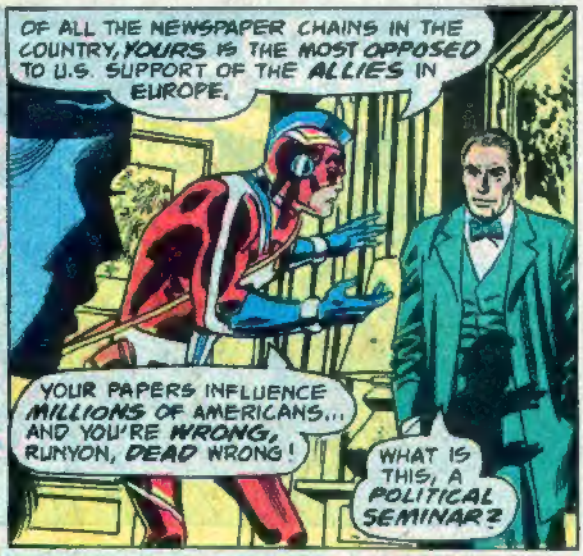
"--AND THAT WAS FOR A MEETING WITH THE SAME MAN I WAS SEEKING NOW, THE PUBLISHER OF THE NEW YORK STAR, THE ONE AND ONLY--
--EDWARD RUNYON, YOU'RE A DISAPPOINTMENT.
A COSTUMED CRAZYMAN ROBS US AT THE PLAZA AND ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS LEAVE IT FOR THE POLICE!
ARE YOU THE MAN MY FATHER IS GROOMING FOR THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION?
WHERE'S YOUR IMAGINATION, EDWARD?

I KNOW WHEN I'M OUT-CLASSED, KATHY, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT.
YOU MAY BE CONGRESS-MAN KULHAMMER'S DAUGHTER, BUT EVEN YOU WERE HELPLESS WHEN THAT MADMAN STRUCK!*
SO DON'T LECTURE ME, MY DARL--
*IBID. --A.


GOOD LORD, EDWARD--THERE'S A MAN OUTSIDE THE WINDOW!
IT'S STEEL!
WELL, DON'T STAND THERE GAWKING! LET HIM IN BEFORE HE FALLS!

I DON'T FALL, MISS KULHAMMER... NOT EVEN FOR A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!
FORGIVE THE MELODRAMATICS ...BUT YOUR PRIVATE ELEVATOR WAS LOCKED...
...AND THE VIEW WAS BETTER HERE THAN ON THE SERVICE STAIRS.
RUNYON, I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU.

M-ME...?
STEEL, IF IT'S ABOUT THAT FAVOR YOU DID ME EARLIER--
NO, RUNYON, SLEDGEHAMMER HAS GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
BUT IT IS IMPORTANT!


OF ALL THE NEWSPAPER CHAINS IN THE COUNTRY, YOURS IS THE MOST OPPOSED TO U.S. SUPPORT OF THE ALLIES IN EUROPE.
YOUR PAPERS INFLUENCE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS... AND YOU'RE WRONG, RUNYON, DEAD WRONG!
WHAT IS THIS, A POLITICAL SEMINAR?

RUNYON, I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO PRINT SOMETHING YOU DON'T BELIEVE.
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO DISTORT THE TRUTH OR TWIST THE FACTS.
WHAT I AM ASKING IS THAT YOU TREAT THE NEWS FAIRLY--

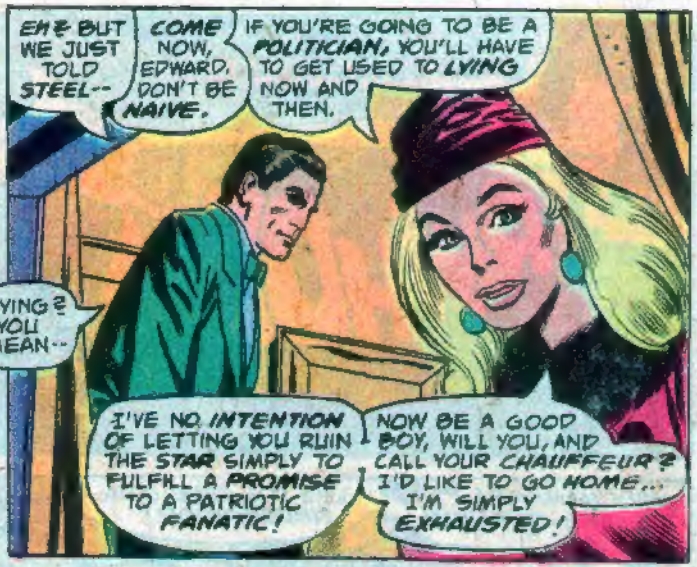
--NOT WITH THE SLANT YOU'VE BEEN TAKING, CRITICIZING EVERY EFFORT OF THE MILITARY AND THE PRESIDENT TO PREPARE FOR THE COMING CONFLICT.
LIKE IT OR NOT, AMERICA WILL HAVE TO FIGHT.
FOR GOD'S SAKE, GIVE THE PEOPLE A CHANCE TO GET READY--DON'T LET THEM GET HIT BY A SUCKER PUNCH!

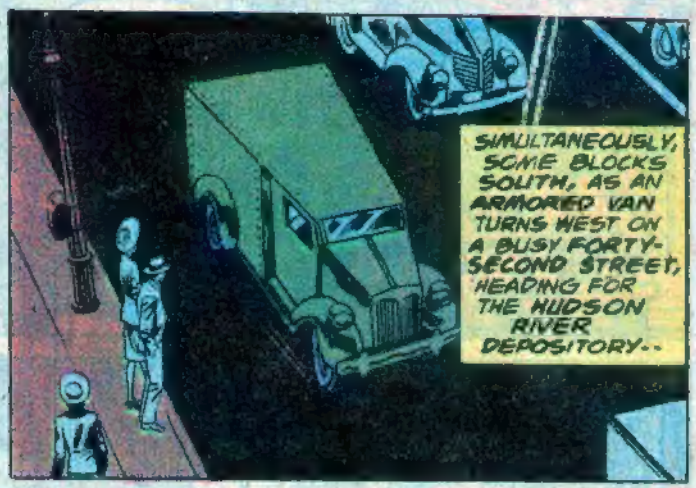
YOU REALLY FEEL DEEPLY ABOUT THIS, DON'T YOU, MISTER... AH... STEEL?
VERY DEEPLY, MISS KULHAMMER!
AMERICA MAY WANT TO AVOID THIS WAR--BUT WE CAN'T.

IF EDWARD AGREES TO DO WHAT YOU ASK, WILL YOU DO SOMETHING IN RETURN?
THIS EVENING A MAN--CALLING HIMSELF THE GADGETEER--ROBBED OVER A HUNDRED PEOPLE AT THE PLAZA, USING WEAPONS THAT WERE--
WELL, UNUSUAL.
THE POLICE DON'T STAND A CHANCE OF CAPTURING HIM...WILL YOU?

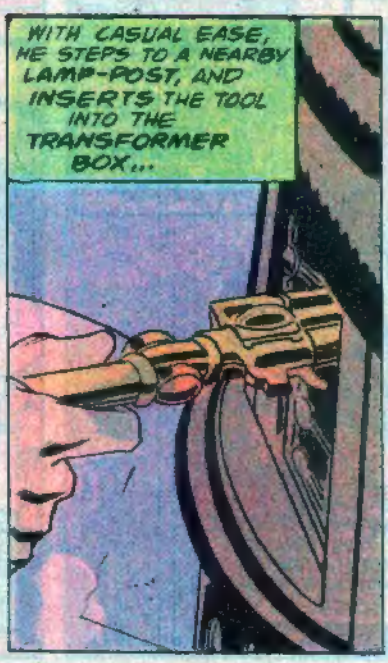
YES...IF RUNYON GIVES HIS WORD HE'LL PRESENT THE FACTS, UNBIASED.
TELL HIM YOU WILL, EDWARD.
I... WILL.
THEN I'LL GET YOUR MAN, MISS KULHAMMER ...AND THANKS FOR INTERCEDING...
OF COURSE, GODSPEED.

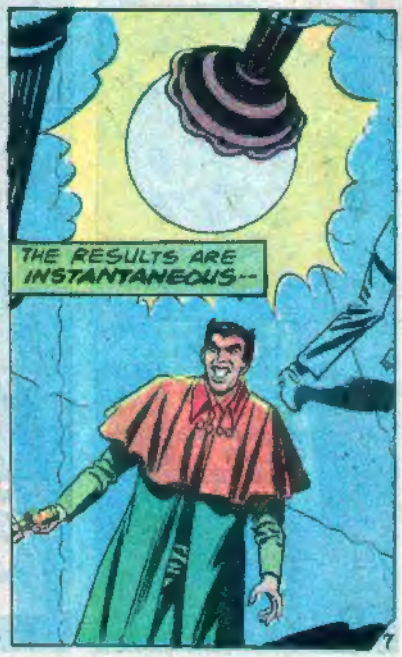
WELL, KATHY, NOW WHAT DO WE DO? HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE YOUR FATHER'S GOING TO FEEL ABOUT A PRO-ALLIES DAILY STAR?
HE'D HATE IT, EDWARD... BUT THE QUESTION'S REALLY ACADEMIC, ISN'T IT?

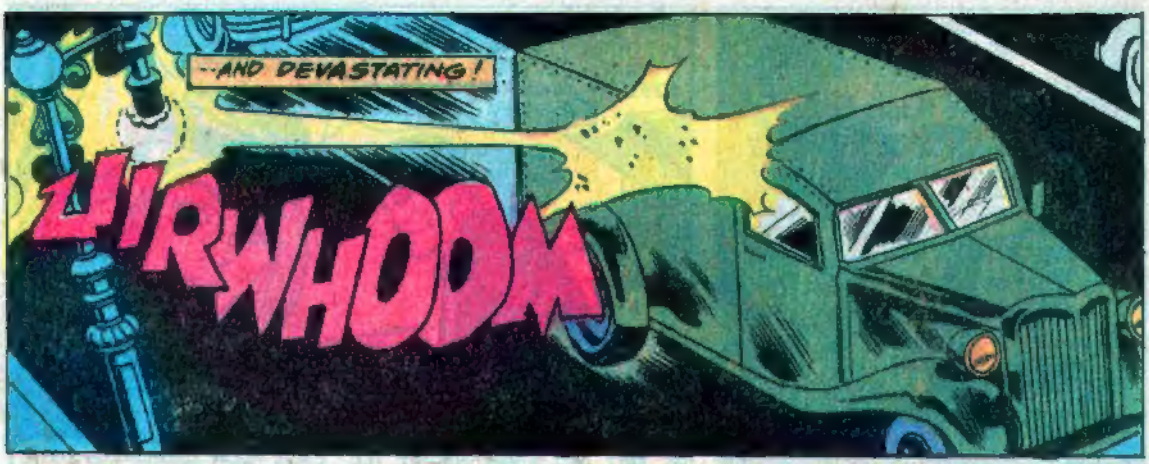

EH? BUT WE JUST TOLD STEEL--
COME NOW, EDWARD, DON'T BE NAIVE.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE A POLITICIAN, YOU'LL HAVE TO GET USED TO LYING NOW AND THEN.
LYING? YOU MEAN--
I'VE NO INTENTION OF LETTING YOU RUIN THE STAR SIMPLY TO FULFILL A PROMISE TO A PATRIOTIC FANATIC!
NOW BE A GOOD BOY, WILL YOU, AND CALL YOUR CHAUFFEUR? I'D LIKE TO GO HOME... I'M SIMPLY EXHAUSTED!

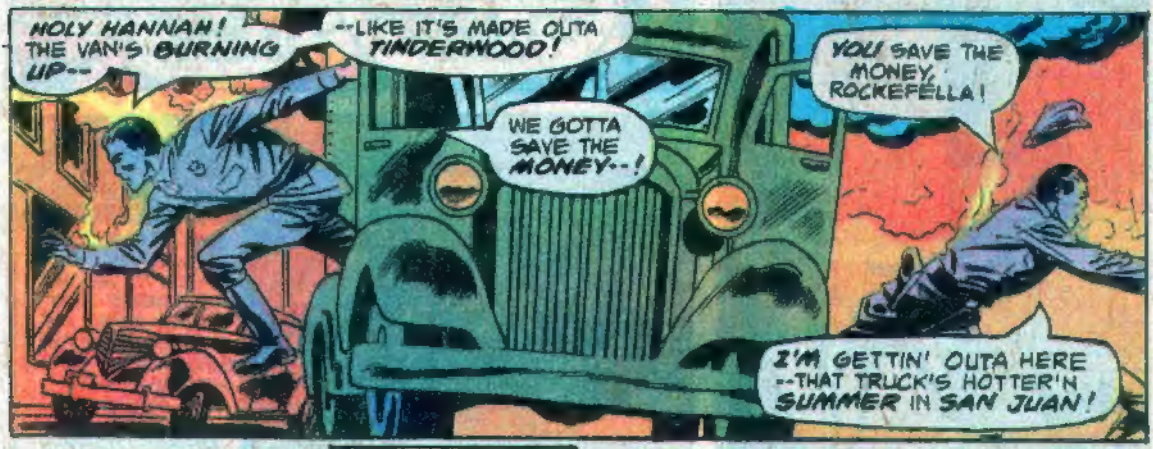

SIMULTANEOUSLY, SOME BLOCKS SOUTH, AS AN ARMORED VAN TURNS WEST ON A BUSY FORTY-SECOND STREET, HEADING FOR THE HUDSON RIVER DEPOSITORY--

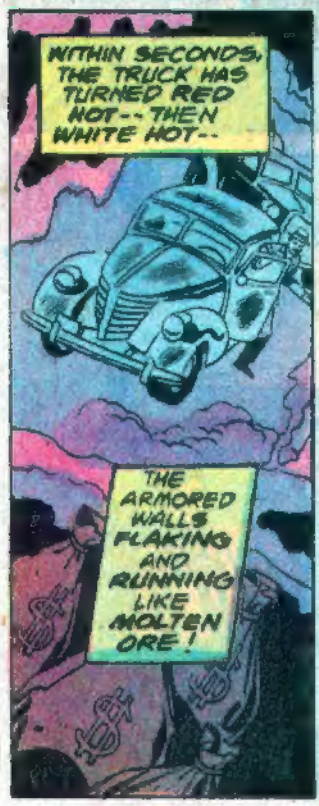
--A CLOAKED MAN STEPS FROM THE CROWDED SIDEWALK, EYES GLINTING WITH MADNESS, HAND CLUTCHING A GLEAMING TOOL--


WITH CASUAL EASE, HE STEPS TO A NEARBY LAMP-POST, AND INSERTS THE TOOL INTO THE TRANSFORMER BOX...


THE RESULTS ARE INSTANTANEOUS--







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FROM HANK HEYWOOD'S JOURNAL: "IT WASN'T HARD TO FIND THE GADGETEER; HE WAS CAUSING ENOUGH OF A DISTURBANCE TO STIR THE WHOLE MIDTOWN AREA--"

"NO, FINDING HIM WASN'T A PROBLEM--BUT CAPTURING HIM MIGHT BE--"

WHAT--?!

"--SO I DECIDED TO START ONE OF MY SPECIAL BLINDING FLARES--!"

"AND FOLLOW WITH A FRONTAL ASSAULT!"

YOU'RE THE ONE THE NEWSREELS CALL STEEL!

WEARING THE FLAG, ARE YOU--LIKE SOME SORT OF STAR-SPANGLED SOLDIER!

SOLDIERS--SOLDIERS ARE SHORT-SIGHTED IMBECILES!

ESPECIALLY THOSE IDIOTS IN E-CORP!

IF YOU'RE LIKE THEM, YOU HAVEN'T THE WIT TO EVEN SLOW ME DOWN!

I COULD TOY WITH YOU, DISPLAY MY GADGETS--

--BUT THAT WOULD PLAY INTO YOUR HANDS--

--GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO CAPTURE ME!

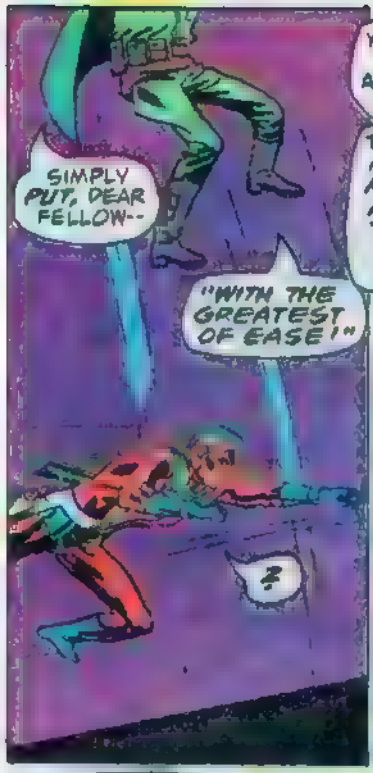
I'M NOT READY FOR CAPTURE, STEEL! MY INSTANT-GADGETS STILL NEED PERFECTING!

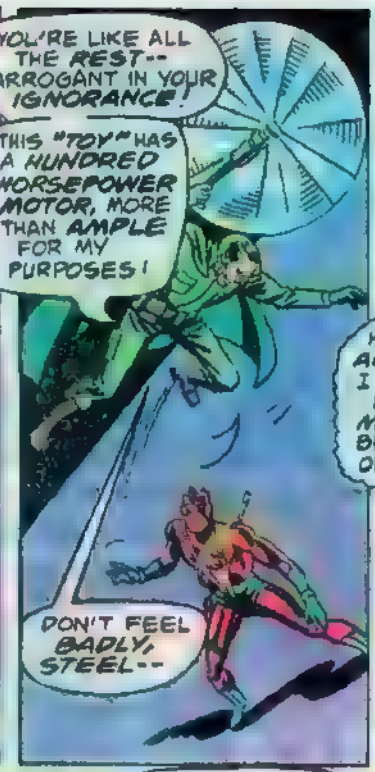
AND FOR THAT, I REQUIRE MONEY--AND FREEDOM!

YOU MUST BE MAD, FRIEND!

HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY ESCAPE ON A TOY AUTO-GYRO?

A SIMPLE QUESTION FROM A SIMPLE MAN, DESERVING OF A SIMPLE ANSWER--


SIMPLY PUT, DEAR FELLOW--
"WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE!"
?

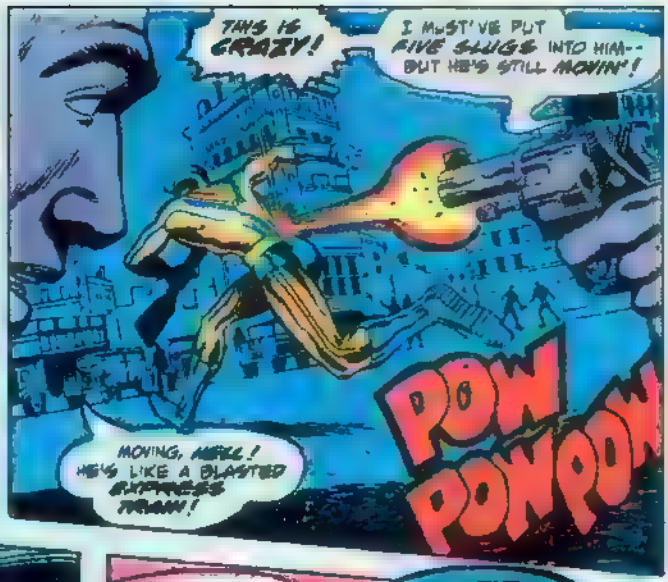

YOU'RE LIKE ALL THE REST-- ARROGANT IN YOUR IGNORANCE!
THIS "TOY" HAS A HUNDRED HORSEPOWER MOTOR, MORE THAN AMPLE FOR MY PURPOSES!
DON'T FEEL BADLY, STEEL--

HOW COULD YOU EVER HOPE TO STOP A MAN WITH SUCH A TALENT FOR MAKING GADGETS?
BE BLISSFUL IN YOUR STUPIDITY, MY FRIEND!
VERY SOON, IT'LL BE ALL YOU HAVE LEFT TO CALL YOUR OWN!
HE'S GAINING ALTITUDE, BUT I CAN STILL HIT HIM WITH A MERCY BULLET BEFORE HE GETS OUT OF RANGE!

OH, NO YOU DON'T, BUDDY! YOU'RE NOT SHOOTING ANYONE!
YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE TO THAT TRUCK! ED--GRAB HIM!
GOT HIM!
WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--
UH-UNH, PAL! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--!

WE GOT A CALL ABOUT A ROBBERY-IN-PROGRESS, BY SOME GUY IN A WEIRD COSTUME, AND SINCE YOU'RE THE ONLY WEIRDO IN SIGHT--
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
FREEZE, STEEL! ONE MOVE--
--AND YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!
END OF PART ONE; PART TWO -- "MANHUNT"--BEGINS ON THE 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING!

STEEL
THE INDESTRUCTIBLE MAN
HANK HEYWOOD'S JOURNAL "I HAD TROUBLE BELIEVING MY EARS. A MOMENT AGO, I WAS FIGHTING THE GIMMICK-CRAZED CROOK KNOWN AS THE GADGETEER, AND WHEN HE ESCAPED, I TRIED TO STOP HIM..."
"NOW I WAS SURROUNDED BY A RING OF RED-FACED POLICE, AND ACCORDING TO THEM, I'D JUST BEEN..."
ARRESTED?
ARE YOU JOKING?
EITHER WAY, YOU'RE COMING!
NEW YORK'S FINEST NEVER JOKE, MISTER! YOU COMING QUIETLY, OR DO WE GET ROUGH?
NOT ON YOUR LIFE!
WHUMP
BANG
BAM
MANHUNT!
GERRY CONWAY WRITER & CREATOR
JUAN ORTIZ PENCILLER
BRUCE PATTERSON INKER
GLEN ROBINS LETTERING
BOB LEROSE COLORIST
ALLEN MILGROM EDITOR



"I HEARD WHAT THE OLDER COP SAID, AND I COULDN'T HAVE AGREED MORE, THOUGH MY REASONS WERE ALL MY OWN..."

"WHAT HE- AND A LOT OF AMERICANS--DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE IS THAT THE WHOLE WORLD HAS CHANGED IN THE PAST FEW YEARS."

"MAYBE I, AND VILLAINS LIKE THE GADGETEER ARE JUST A SYMBOL OF THE CHANGE. MORE OBVIOUS THAN MONSTERS LIKE HITLER..."

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

SCIENCE IS MOVING AT SUCH A FAST PACE, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE TODAY MEN WITH ARTIFICIAL ORGANS ...MEN WITH INSTANT [illegible]...
...DICTATORS WHO CAN WHIP AN ENTIRE COUNTRY INTO LINE WITH THE POWER OF A RADIO BROADCAST...
...EVEN A WORLD WAR...
...ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE NOW, AND WE AMERICANS JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT IDEA, BECAUSE UNTIL WE DO--
...WE'RE GOING TO BE SITTING DUCKS FOR THE FIRST WAR MINISTER CRAZY ENOUGH TO ATTACK ACROSS AN OCEAN!
AH, THERE HE IS, LESS THAN TWENTY BLOCKS AWAY...
...THAT AUTO-GYRO DEVICE CAN'T MOVE VERY FAST OR MANEUVER VERY WELL...
WHAT A PITY FOR HIM THAT I'M NOT THAT LIMITED!
APPARENTLY I'VE WON ONLY A TEMPORARY RESPITE. MY OPPONENT SEEMS TO BE OVERTAKING ME QUITE RAPIDLY!
AND HOW CLEVER OF ME TO HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTIONS FOR JUST SUCH AN EMERGENCY!
A MORE EFFICIENT FORM OF ESCAPE SEEMS IN ORDER...

"EVEN FROM FIVE BLOCKS AWAY, I COULD SEE THE GADGETEER PLUNGE EARTHWARD LIKE A STONE. I THOUGHT HE WAS FINISHED--"

"I WAS WRONG."

HA HA HA

DANGER MEN WORKING

DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"BY THE TIME I REACHED THE OPEN MANHOLE, HE WAS LONG, LONG GONE..."

PUBLIC WORKS

ODDS ARE HE DELIBERATELY PLANNED THIS "BOLT-HOLE"... AND IF HE'S THAT CLEVER, IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN [illegible] TO TRAP HIM!

I NEED INFORMATION ...AND I'VE A GOOD IDEA WHERE TO START LOOKING.

MARK NEWMAN'S JOURNAL: "AFTER SWITCHING TO MY ROBERTS, I HURRIED TO THE U.S. ARMY COMMAND OFFICE IN DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN..."

"THAT'S WHERE I FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR..."

THE GADGETEER... [illegible] COLONEL ROGER ROMANE, FORMERLY ATTACHED TO THE [illegible] CORPS, HANDLING R&D...RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT...

...I THOUGHT I'D FIND HIM HERE WHEN HE MENTIONED [illegible] DURING OUR FIGHT.

APPARENTLY HE WAS DISCHARGED FOR [illegible] A SUPERIOR OFFICER... A GENERAL WHO REJECTED ROMANE'S CONCEPT OF MULTI-PURPOSE TOOLS FOR USE BY COMBAT ENGINEERS...

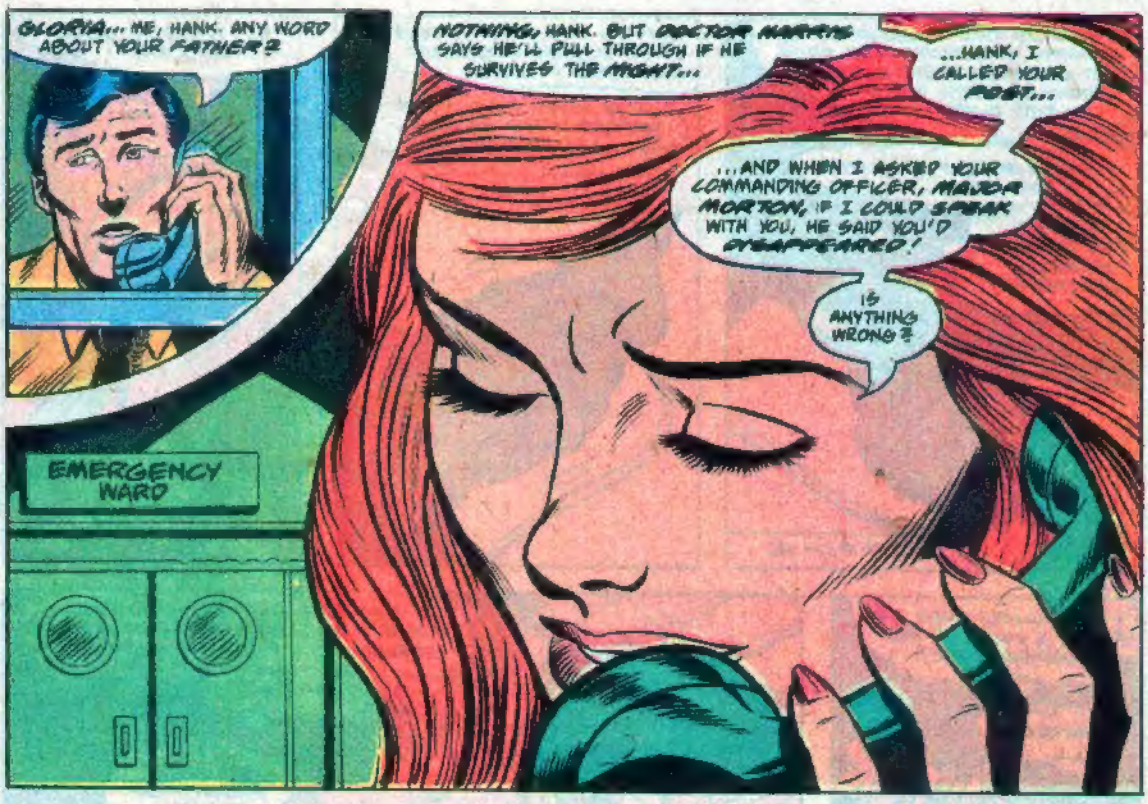
ROMANE'S A GENIUS BUT TOTALLY ANTI-SOCIAL!

NOW HE'S USING HIS SKILLS FOR CRIME!

NOT MUCH CHANCE HE'S AT THE ADDRESS HE GAVE [illegible] FOR HIS PENSION CHECKS, BUT STILL--

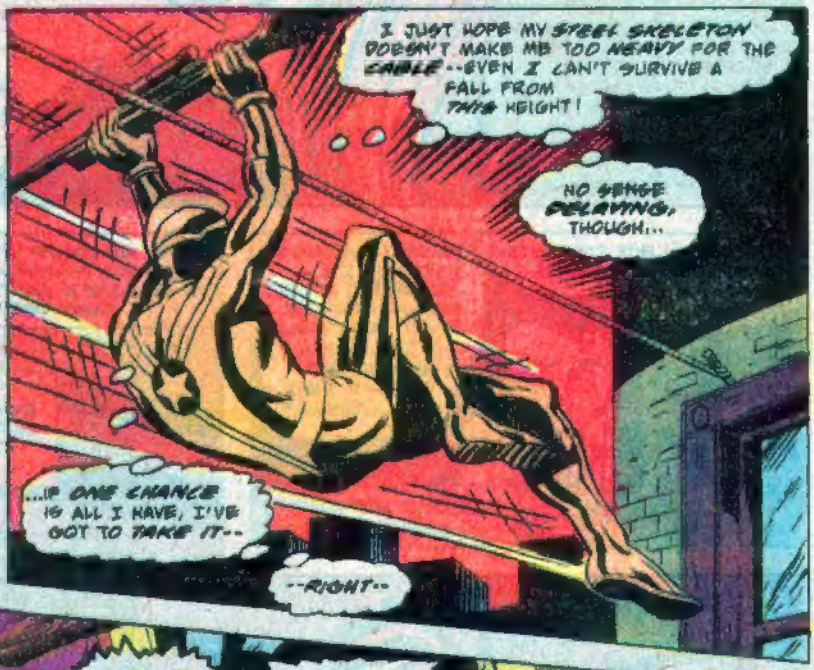
PHONE

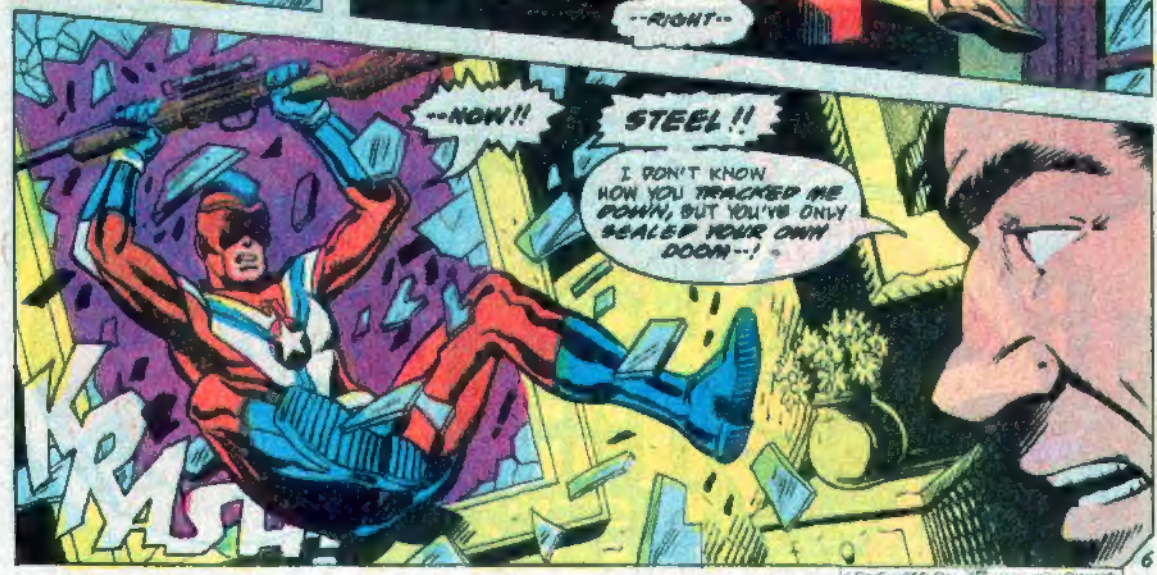
--THAT PHONE... BETTER CALL GLORIA...


GLORIA... ME, HANK. ANY WORD ABOUT YOUR FATHER?
NOTHING, HANK. BUT DOCTOR MARTIN SAYS HE'LL PULL THROUGH IF HE SURVIVES THE NIGHT...
...HANK, I CALLED YOUR POST...
...AND WHEN I ASKED YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER, MAJOR MORTON, IF I COULD SPEAK WITH YOU, HE SAID YOU'D DISAPPEARED!
IS ANYTHING WRONG?
EMERGENCY WARD

NO, GLORIA...BUT I'D BETTER HANG UP...I'LL CALL YOU TONIGHT IF I CAN.
DAMN! SOMETIMES I FORGET I'M A SOLDIER, WITHOUT MUCH FREEDOM TO ACT ON MY OWN. IF THE MAJOR GETS IT INTO HIS HEAD THAT I'M AWOL... *
*ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE. --AL

HANK HEYWOOD'S JOURNAL (CONTINUED): "USING SIDESTREETS AND ROOFTOPS, I MADE IT UPTOWN TO ROMANE'S LAST KNOWN APARTMENT IN LESS THAN TWENTY MINUTES..."
"THERE WAS A NEW BUILDING BEING ERECTED ACROSS THE STREET, AND I CLIMBED IT TO GET A GOOD VANTAGE POINT..."





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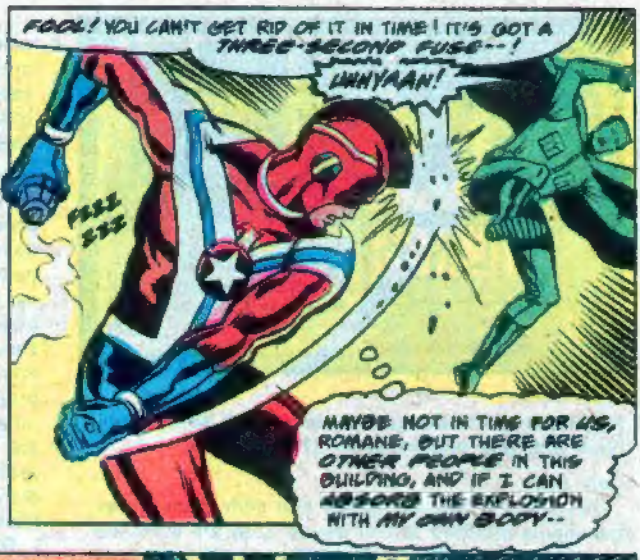

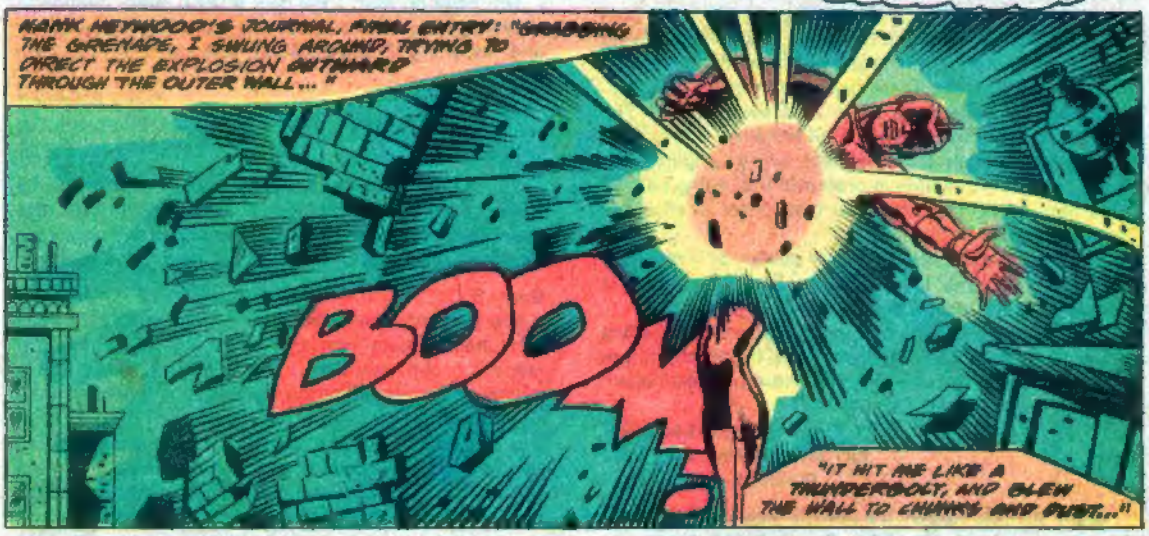

NEXT ISSUE! A FULL-LENGTH 25-PAGE STEEL SPECTACULAR FEATURING: MYSTERY, MONSTERS, AND MAYHEM AS HANK HEYWOOD FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE IN! "**A BROTHER'S KEEPER**"!

ON SALE JULY 27TH

First issue mail is always especially heavy, so let's continue with your comments on *STEEL* #1 . . .

Dear Sirs:

Anyone who follows comics and comicdom knows the stigma attached to first issues. They are snatched up, plastic bagged, and hoarded amongst a ream of other comics which share the same fate. I'm not saying any of this is wrong, but many times, in an effort to retain their mint conditions, these books are never ever read.

STEEL #1 should be read. And even reread. The story line, up to this point is a bit imitative, and I could list a good number of heroes with similar origins, yet I loved the book! I've always preferred the raging patriot-type hero more than any other type. Steel is, after one issue, a classic of this genre.

I've never been a real Don Heck patron, but I must say his work this time is exemplary. Steel's costume is genius, and the action scenes his best ever.

I was ready to quit the comics after 15 years of buying them. I was bored with all the science-fiction and future shock. It's good to see red-white-and-blue action again after all these years!

Roger Ledbetter
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Many thanks, Roger, it's always nice to hear that a fan has rejoined the fold. Our creative team appreciates your comments, but thinks you may have misinterpreted Hank Heywood's character in the term "raging". At any rate, welcome back.—MWB

Dear Editor:

All right, we are all up to our heads in super-heroes. There are more long-johned do-gooders today than there have been since WW2. What kind of concept does it take to convince an editor and publisher that yet another costumed good guy should appear on the scene?

Is it possible that **STEEL, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE MAN** is such an obviously important epic that it rates shelf space? No, I don't think so. On the whole, I found **STEEL** #1 to be strictly average; not to say that it was a bad book, but it was, shall we say, familiar. Conway's scripting style has become almost ubiquitous to the point where I see a writer behind his typewriter, rather than a character talking. This is true especially in the case of **STEEL** because I do not yet really know the character of Hank Heywood, so instead I see Conway feeding words into a balloon.

Another aspect of **STEEL** that did not really impress me was Heywood's lack of dynamic magnetism. In other words, Heywood came off as just another one of comicdom's "Heroic young men who hear the call of embattled multitudes resisting the fierce, taut grip of tyranny, oppression, and evil itself." Heywood is a comic book cliché, and Gerry Conway's number one priority should be character development along original, rather than traditional, lines. The Heck-Giella art was appropriate. Conway and Milgrom obviously have opted for a traditional approach to the story-telling, and I think that approach will probably work out okay. The only problem I can see is that Don Heck tends to be a rather dull penciller, in comparison to the Continuity boys and their spawn.

Oh, have no fear, I will give **STEEL** every chance to succeed. The real fun in comics is starting with a series and watching it grow. Good luck, and I'll be here reading.

Dave Blechard
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That's all we ask Dave; a chance to entertain you. As Gerry and Don grow more acquainted with the character, hopefully their handling of him will gain your approval. One way or another, let us know.—MWB

Gerry & Co:

I've got strongly-mixed reactions after **STEEL** #1. I can't help feeling one more Nazi-fighter is one too many. I groan very time I turn a page and the villain throws off his cloak, baring his swastika. It is original to have the book set before the US entered the war; that should cut down a lot on plot duplications of what **Rock, Fury, Losers, Invaders,** etc., etc., have already done.

But frankly, what's Steel going to do? Fight Bundists? That would get about five issues. Even if the US hasn't entered the war, you might find some excuses to send Steel abroad; not to the Eurpean theatre, but to Africa, Russia, China or Tibet. If he stays in the US, it would be neat for him to shift scenes often and combat the Fifth Column in all states of the union. I guess what I'm saying is that just plain heroics won't keep my interest; you need geographic variation to liven things up.

Let's hope **STEEL** turns into something really different! I'll be around for #2; after that, we'll see.

Mark Willard
McCall, Idaho

By now you've seen a couple of examples of what Steel is "going to do", Mark. Do foes like Mineral Master, Sledgehammer, and The Gadgeteer meet your definition of "something really different"? We'll say it again, let us know, and please be here for the next issue.—Mike W. Barr